

From: Judson Frondorf
To: micro
Date: 11/21/01 6:15am
Subject: not fair

A proposed settlement agreement in a series of antitrust suits may not only give Microsoft a fairly inexpensive legal resolution, it may also help the company and its PC allies further erode Apple Computer's position in education.

Under a settlement proposal
<<http://news.cnet.com/news/0-1003-200-7928195.html>> in a series of private antitrust lawsuits announced Tuesday, Microsoft agreed to donate approximately \$500 million to help bring technology to some of the nation's most disadvantaged schools. The deal will also allow these schools to obtain a virtually unlimited supply of Microsoft software for the next five years

Although the settlement terms will likely help Microsoft's position in education, more tangible benefits come from the relatively light terms. The company is effectively making a \$500 million charitable donation and giving away its own software to settle a case where the liability could have stretched into far higher figures.

The case in some ways is being settled for pennies on the dollar, according to Bob Lande, an antitrust professor with University of Baltimore School of Law.

The company will also likely get positive public relations messages out with the deal, said Gartner Dataquest analyst Michael Silver. "This gets Microsoft out of all these lawsuits in one fell swoop," Silver said. "It's a penalty, but it makes Microsoft look good and gives schools PCs, and in so doing would give Microsoft an even larger installed base than they already have."

--

Judson Frondorf
APS Help Desk Technician
Please feel free to contact me via email.
Include:
full name
employee number
contact phone number
location number
your position
complete description of problem

